

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing, starting from a vulcanizable elastomer material, a covering that has an appearance substantially free from phenomena of directionality, the process comprising the operations of:

feeding an extruder with strips of vulcanizable elastomer material of different colors, subjecting said material to extrusion by causing it to pass through a drawplate provided with openings;

subjecting the material obtained by ~~means of~~ drawing to shredding so as to obtain, as a result of the ~~action of~~ shredding, a granular material;

subjecting said granular material to mixing until it is rendered substantially chromatically homogeneous;

feeding said granular material rendered chromatically homogeneous by mixing to a calender, by direct feeding by gravity of the chromatically homogeneous granular material into ~~the a~~ gap between the rollers of the calender so as to obtain, as a result of calendaring, a strip of vulcanizable elastomer material; and

subjecting said strip of vulcanizable elastomer material ~~in the form of a strip~~ to vulcanization.

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the operation of~~ subjecting to storage said granular material before or after said mixing.

3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the drawplate has openings having a crescent-shaped conformation.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a maximum transverse dimension of between 1 mm and 5 mm.

5. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a maximum transverse dimension of 2.5 mm.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a length in ~~the~~a region of 10-15 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3 wherein said crescent-shaped openings are arranged in pairs of openings facing one another with ~~the~~a concavity set opposed, ~~i.e.~~, according to a general configuration ().

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7 wherein said pairs of openings are distributed according to a regular array on ~~the~~a development of the drawplate.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the operation of enabling~~ said granular material to reach, before or after said mixing operation, room temperature.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, further comprising ~~the operation of enabling~~ an at least partial mixing of the colors of said strips of vulcanizable elastomer material fed to the extruder.

11. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the rollers of said calender are kept at a temperature of substantially between 30°C and 40°C.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~a speed of rotation of the rollers of the calender and ~~the~~a rate of feed by gravity of the granular

material onto the rollers are regulated jointly so as to maintain a constant level of granular material waiting to be calendered.

13. (Withdrawn) An intermediate product of the process according to claim 1 wherein said intermediate product is constituted by said granular material that has been rendered substantially homogeneous.